

Message Text

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SUBJECT: POSSIBILITIES OF WORK ABROAD FOR VIETNAMESE REFUGEES

IN U.S.

1. OCEOSRY. GOVERNMENT OF BAHRAIN'S CIVIL SERVICE DIRECTOR, AN AMERICAN CITIZEN, HAS ASKED WHAT CHANCES MIGHT BE TO RECRUIT VIETNAMESE REFUGEES NOW IN U.S. FOR JOBS IN BAHRAIN. ONE KEY POINT WOULD OF COURSE BE NATURE OF THEIR STATUS IN U.S. AND WHETHER THAT STATUS, OR THEIR PROGRESS TOWARD CITIZENSHIP, WOULD BE DAMAGED BY WORK ABROAD. AT FIRST GLANCE, CONCEPT DESCRIBED BELOW HAS SOME APPEAL AND WE WOULD APPRECIATE DEPT'S VIEWS, AS WELL AS VIEWS OF AGENCIES WITH RESPONSIBILITY FOR REFUGEE PROGRAM. END SUMMARY.

2. GOB CIVIL SERVICE DIRECTOR CONROY ASKED AMBASSADOR MARCH 12 TO INVESTIGATE POSSIBILITY OF RECRUITING SKILLED VIETNAMESE REFUGEES NOW IN U.S. FOR JOBS IN BAHRAIN. CIVIL SERVICE DIRECTOR'S RESPONSIBILITIES MCLVROADER THAN TITLE SUGGESTS AND INCLUDE HELPING GOB PLAN AND IMPLEMENT BETTER QUANTITY AND QUALITY CONTROL OVER EXPATRIATE WORKERS IN COUNTRY. ONE OF HIS CHIEF AIDES IS STUART CLARKE, A FORMER DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF HEW WHO HAS RESPONSIBILITIES FOR SOME ASPECTS VIETNAMESE REFUGEE PROGRAM. CONROY AND HIS SMALL GROUP OF AMERICAN CITIZEN AIDES ORIGINALLY CAME TO BAHRAIN SOME 20

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MONTHS AGO AS CIVIL SERVICE ADVISORS TO OFFICE OF PRIME MINISTER. PM LIKED THEIR WORK SO MUCH, HOWEVER, THAT HE APPOINT T CONROY, FORMERLY PERSONNEL SPECIALIST WITH USAF, AS CIVIL SERVICE DIRECTOR WITH BROAD AUTHORITY TO DESIGN AND IMPLEMENT CIVIL SERVICE HERE AND TO DELVE WHERE NECESSARY INTO RELATED AREAS - TRAINING, EDUCATION, AND USE OF EXPATRIATE EXPERTS.

3. FROM BAHRAIN PERSPECTIVE CONROY AND CLARKE FEEL VIETNAMESE WOULD BE WELCOME AND SUCCESSFUL HERE BECAUSE GOB LOOKING FOR NEW SOURCE OF EXPATRIATES WHO WOULD HAVE BETTER SKILLS THAN INDIANS WHO NOW HERE IN NUMBERS L PQUEENOUGH (SOME 25,000) TO CONSTITUTE DEMOGRAPHIC IMBALANCE WHICH GOB WOULD LIKE TO CORRECT. ALSO, GOB HAS NOTED EXCELLENT SKILLS OF KOREANS AND THAIS WORKING HERE AND IS AWARE THAT VIRTUALLY ALL OF THESE WORKERS WERE TRAINED BY U.S. THERE ARE SOME 1,000 THAIS HERE, ALL FORMERLY EMPLOYED BY USAF, AND PERHAPS 3,000 KOREANS WHO WERE EITHER U.S. TRAINED OR REFLECT U.S. TRAINING OF KOREAN MILITARY INSTRUCTORS FROM WHOM THEY LEARNED THEIR SKILLS.

4. CONROY AND CLARKE CLAIMED THAT MANY VIETNAMESE IN U.S. ARE WORKING AT JOBS BENEATH THEIR SKILL LEVELS, OR IN JOBS OUTSIDE THEIR SPECIALTIES, AND THAT SOME ARE UNEMPLOYED. THEY FELT, THEREFORE, THAT VIETNAMESE MIGHT WELCOME CHANCE TO EARN HIGH SALARIES HERE WORKING IN THEIR FIELDS. CONROY SAID BAHRAIN COULD USE AT ONCE SOME 1,000 SKILLED WORKERS -- IN FIELDS AS DIVERSE AS DOCTORS, NURSES, MEDICAL TECHNICIANS, POWER PLANT ELECTRICIANS AND ENGINEERS, AND PUBLIC WORKS DEPT. ENGINEERS AND TECHNICIANS. JOBS WOULD REQUIRE ENGLISH AND WORKERS WOULD BE UNDER CONTRACTS, IN MOST CASES TO GOB, FOR ONE OR TWO YEARS, WITH POSSIBILITIES OF EXTENSIONS.

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5. AMBASSADOR TOLD CONROY THAT HE WOULD INQUIRE BUT THAT KEY QUESTION IN ANY SUCH SCHEME WOULD BE STATUS IN U.S. OF VIETNAMESE REFUGEES. MOST IF NOT ALL INTEND TO BECOME U.S. CITIZENS AND PROGRESS TOWARD THIS GOAL MIGHT NOT PERMIT WORK ABROAD. BUT THERE IS REAL DESIRE HERE TO REDUCE RELIANCE ON INDIANS AND, FOR ONE EXAMPLE, GOB RECENTLY BROUGHT IN SMALL GROUP OF KOREAN NURSES -- TRADITIONALLY A PROFESSION FILLED FOR MOST PART BY RECRUITMENT IN SUB-CONTINENT. IN SHORT, THERE ARE REAL JOB OPPORTUNITIES HERE FOR SKILLED, ENGLISH-SPEAKING WORKERS IN WIDE VARIETY OF FIELDS. WHETHER VIETNAMESE REFUGEES IN U.S. COULD OR WOULD BE INTERESTED IN QUESTION WE WOULD LIKE DEPT TO ANSWER.
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